



**ANSWERS FOR PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT EXPOSURE  
TO ARSENIC AND CADMIUM IN SE PORTLAND**

**Is it safe for my child to go to school?**

Yes. Portland Public Schools will tell the community immediately if students should not attend school because of environmental concerns.

**Is it safe for my children to spend time outdoors in this neighborhood?**

Yes. Bullseye Glass, the probable source of the higher levels of cadmium and arsenic, has stopped using these substances in their operations. Because air pollution can change quickly due to rain or wind, levels should be much lower now.

**Can I let children play in my yard or garden?**

Bullseye Glass has been in operation for decades, so there are likely metals in the soil of yards and properties surrounding the facilities. More data will be collected to better understand the levels in soil and the area affected.

To be exposed to contaminants in soil, one would have to ingest the soil. This is typically of most concern for young children who tend to play in dirt and frequently put their hands in their mouths. Ensuring that children wash their hands after playing outdoors can significantly reduce risks of exposure.

**Is it safe for kids to eat fruits, vegetables and herbs grown in this neighborhood?**

Generally, urban gardens are at higher risk of soil contamination from heavy metals, petroleum products and other contaminants. When eating from your garden, you should thoroughly wash produce and peel root vegetables. OHA's [Healthy Gardening Factsheet](#) provides some additional information.

More information is needed to understand how far and at what levels metals may be found in the soil. With this information, we will be able to better understand any potential risks from exposure to soil, gardening and eating fruits and vegetables from